

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 30, wherein said ~~locking and engaging portions~~ first and second pluralities of teeth include ~~a plurality of~~ asymmetrical teeth.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~1~~ 30, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch apparatus.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

7-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~16~~ 33, wherein said ~~locking and engaging portions~~ first and second pluralities of teeth include a ~~plurality of~~ asymmetrical teeth.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~16~~ 33, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch ~~apparatus~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim ~~16~~ 33, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

23-29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A latch apparatus for a vehicle seat comprising:
a housing;

an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion having a first plurality of teeth;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion having a second plurality of teeth in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into engagement with said engaging portion.

31. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said biasing member causes a first moment to be applied to said locking member and a reactive moment to be applied to said engaging member, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

32. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

33. (New) A latch apparatus for a vehicle seat comprising:

a housing;

an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion having a first plurality of teeth;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion having a second plurality of teeth; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into engagement with said engaging portion and cause a first moment to be applied to said locking member and a reactive moment to be applied to said engaging member, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

34. (New) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein said second plurality of teeth is in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth.

35. (New) A vehicle seat assembly comprising:

- a seat bottom;
- a seat back operably attached to said seat bottom; and
- a latch assembly supported by said seat bottom to selectively prevent rotation of said seat bottom, the latch apparatus comprising:
 - a housing;
 - an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion having a first plurality of teeth;
 - a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion having a second plurality of teeth in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth; and
 - a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into engagement with said engaging portion.

36. (New) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said biasing member causes a first moment to be applied to said locking member and a reactive moment to be applied to said engaging member, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

37. (New) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.

38. (New) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said first and second pluralities of teeth include asymmetrical teeth.

39. (New) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 35, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch apparatus.

40. (New) The vehicle seat assembly of Claim 39, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

41. (New) A vehicle seat assembly comprising:

a seat bottom;

a seat back operably attached to said seat bottom; and

a latch assembly supported by said seat bottom to selectively prevent rotation of said seat bottom, the latch apparatus comprising:

a housing;

an engaging member rotatably supported by said housing about a first axis, said engaging member including an engaging portion having a first plurality of teeth;

a locking member rotatably supported by said housing about a second axis, said locking member including a locking portion having a second plurality of teeth; and

a biasing member disposed between said locking member and said engaging member, said biasing member operable to bias said locking portion into engagement with said engaging portion and cause a first moment to be applied to said locking member and a reactive moment to be applied to said engaging member, said reactive moment opposing said first moment.

42. (New) The seat assembly of Claim 41, wherein said second plurality of teeth is in ratcheting engagement with said first plurality of teeth.

43. (New) The seat assembly of Claim 41, wherein said first and second pluralities of teeth include asymmetrical teeth.

44. (New) The seat assembly of Claim 41, wherein said engaging member includes a pawl portion for being engaged by said locking member and a lever portion for actuating said latch.

45. (New) The seat assembly of Claim 44, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring having one end attached to said lever portion and another end attached to said locking member.

46. (New) The seat assembly of Claim 41, wherein said biasing member is a coil spring.